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Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations

Integrated Management Information System

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998,

Reaffirming its resolution 52/227 of 31 March 1998 and resolution 53/214, section VII, of 18 December 1998,

Having considered the tenth progress report of the Secretary-General and its addendum,[1] the report of the independent experts on the Integrated Management Information System project,[2] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the increase in costs of the Integrated Management Information System development contract,[4]

1. *Takes note with concern* of the findings contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the increase in costs of the Integrated Management Information System development contract,[4] in particular that:

(a) With careful planning, proper identification of needs and more adequate preparations, the cost increase could have been reduced;

(b) Delays in promptly addressing deficiencies through concerted action in each phase of the development and implementation process led the Organization to place undue reliance on the contractor;

(c) Insufficient progress has been made with respect to long-term operational support, software maintenance and staff training functions and, consequently, the reliance

[1] A/53/573 and Add.1

[2] A/53/662

[3] A/53/7/Add.7. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 7*.

[4] A/53/829

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on the IMIS project team and perhaps even the contractor is unlikely to diminish in the near future;

(d) There is no assurance that implementation problems of remaining releases, similar to those experienced in previous years, will not recur, resulting in the possibility of further cost escalations;

2. *Notes also* the observations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that in large and complex software development contracts some out-of-scope work is a common occurrence;

3. *Regrets* the lack of adequate participation of the main user departments in the development and implementation phases of the system, which led to increased costs;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the institutionalization of the Integrated Management Information System by the main user departments should be completed as soon as possible;

5. *Reiterates its deep concern* about the time and cost overruns for the completion of the project;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that problems similar to those experienced previously should not recur;

7. *Takes note* that the services required from the main contractor will end by the end of 1999, with the exception of warranty-related activities;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to make use of any potential for improving efficiency through streamlining existing work flows and processes through a more effective use of the Integrated Management Information System;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all corrective measures required in order to make the system fully operational, avoid further delays and unnecessary increasing costs in the implementation of the project, taking into account the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the group of independent experts;

10. *Decides* that the resources required to conclude the development of the system by August 2000 shall not exceed 77.6 million United States dollars;

11. *Reiterates* the need for a comprehensive programme for Integrated Management Information System training to be included as part of the ongoing training programme offered to staff at all duty stations concerned;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 52/212 B of 31 March 1998 in future progress reports on the Integrated Management Information System;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to clearly establish roles, responsibilities and accountability of all offices and staff concerned in the implementation of the remaining releases and to report thereon in his next progress report;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to maintain the effective monitoring system to ensure that implementation problems are addressed properly as they arise;

15. *Decides* to approve an additional appropriation of 3.2 million dollars under section 27D of the programme budget for 1998–1999, to be charged to the contingency fund and to be reflected in the assessment to be determined on the basis of the final appropriation for 1998–1999.